

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, immediately after the title of the invention, please insert the following new paragraph:

The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 202 13 669.8 filed September 2, 2002 and PCT/DE2003/002896 filed September 2, 2003.

On page 7, at line 22, please delete the following paragraph:

~~The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 202 13 669.8 filed September 2, 2002 and PCT/DE2003/002896 filed September 2, 2003.~~

After page 7, please add the following abstract on a separate page:

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A driving axle for a vehicle driven by an electric motor disposed on a driven motor shaft. Drive shafts are coupled to the motor shaft via the interposition of a reduction transmission stage and a following differential transmission. As part of the transmission stage an externally toothed sun pinion is disposed on the motor shaft, which is mounted in motor shaft bearings connected to a gearbox and absorbing radial and axial forces. A sleeve is disposed between, and supported on opposite sides against, the motor shaft bearings and sun pinion. A securing device is disposed on the free end of the motor shaft for fixing the sun pinion against the sleeve. Gears of the transmission stage mesh with the sun pinion, which together with the gears are embodied as helical gears having a force component acting in the direction of the motor shaft bearings.